



To: House Ways and Means Committee

April 17, 2018

Vermont REALTORS® represents approximately 1700 real estate agents who work directly for the citizens and property owners of Vermont. We have a genuine interest in preserving the quality of our real estate inventory and we understand that our environment has a direct impact on value. We are supportive of most of the clean water efforts that are in the legislative processes.

Long Term Funding

After attending the Act 73 working group it became apparent that a fair polluter pays parcel fee will be a difficult task due to the lack of a complete parcel map, and incomplete LIDAR mapping of impervious surface. Complicated by high collection estimates by VT Tax and municipalities the work group laid out a menu of options and questions for the legislature to consider. We believe further work from the proposed Clean Water Board looking at all financing options will lead to the best outcome.

Seat at The Table

The bill in its current form includes a Clean Water Work Group with members of the administration, municipalities, travel, farming, business, lending and watershed management. It is notable that there is a lack of a real estate professional on the list. The mere fact that a parcel fee will be in consideration suggests that representation of property owners should be of high consideration. We believe that a member of our organization involved early in the process will pave the way for collaboration, benefit the process and help build recommendations that will pass legislative review in the future session.

Bill That Will Pass

We appreciate many of the changes to S.260 and we are still interested in a bill that will move forward to accomplish the major goal of clean water. Creating the infrastructure of the Working Group and the Water Board using existing infrastructure will keep us moving in this 20-year endeavor.

Thank you,
Matthew Musgrave
Government Affairs Director